MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Sir, before proceeding to the next item in the agenda I wish to make statement in respect of interpellations. For this session, I find, from the list of questions admitted by the President, as many as 414 questions for answers. Till now only 85 questions have been answered. Sir, under the Rules and Standing Orders the first hour of every day is to be devoted to answering questions. It will be seen that during this week practically the questions were finished within half an hour and the questions set down for the day were finished in the record time of five minutes yesterday. The House will remember that fact quite well. Anyhow, there is great disparity between the number of questions admitted and the number of answers that were supplied till now. I need not say that this is a very important privilege, *viz.*, the right of interpellations conferred upon the members. I am sorry to say that that privilege is being denied. I fear that.....

PRESIDENT: The honourable member means thereby "minimised".

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Yes, Sir. Probably the Government may say that answers for some of the questions were not obtained within time. Sir, under the Rules, 12 days' notice is allowed for the sending of interpellations to Government and I am sure that answers for almost all the questions could be easily obtained by communication from all the mofussil places, because almost all the places in the State are within reach of 3 days' communication by anchal. So far as offices in Trivandrum are concerned almost all the offices are supplied with telephone connections. Considering all these circumstances, answers to questions could be obtained early enough. From the list of interpallations I find, many of them are such that answers for them could be obtained without communicating to mofussil offices. But even then the head offices are situated in the town of Trivandrum. Under these circumstances I request you, Sir, to see, that this subject of interpellations and answers is given its due weight.

PRESIDENT: Before I make a statement I should like to hear the Chief Secretary.

RAO BAHAUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, it is true that it has been possible to answer only about 15 questions on an average daily during the last few days and I must say that the Government are doing their best to collect answers and include as many questions as possible in the agenda for each day. The matter is not so easy as my friend Mr. Pacode Narayana Pillai makes out. Most of the questions have to be sent to the heads of departments who have to refer them to their subordinates. Take for instance a question relating to the Land Revenue Department. It has to filter down from the Revenue Commissioner to the Division Peishkar, to the Assistant Peishkar, to the Tahsildar and finally to the Proverthicar before answers could be obtained and so it does take some time. But I must say that the Government are putting all possible pressure upon to heads of departments by sending them reminders almost every day and asking them to send in their answers promptly. As I have already said every possible effort is being made to answer as many questions as possible. But I may say that though only about 15 questions

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a day have been answered during the last few days, I think it is possible to answer for the next few days on an average from 25 to 30 questions daily as we have now received sufficient answers.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): According to the Rules questions have to be sent 12 clear days before the date of the meeting. May I know whether the consideration of probable delay in getting the answers ready by a lot of correspondence etc., did not weigh with the Government when they fixed the numuber of days by such a rule?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is the minimum number of days for the notice. I repeat that Government are doing all that is possible to expedite the answering of questions and from next day onwards more questions will be answered.

PRESIDENT: I fully realise that the right of interpellations is a valuable privilege exercisable by the members of the legislature. At the same time the members of the legislature will also see that the various departments, both in the metropolis and in the districts, should have sufficient time in order to answer the questions thoroughly and precisely. To insist upon too short a time may mean that the answers may take a non-committal or inconclusive form. Therefore its necessary to reconcile all these things. Care will be taken hereafter that the exercise of the privilege will not be curtailed or minimised in any—manner.

Legislative Business.

THE TRAVANCORE ANCIENT MONUMENTS PRESERVATION BILL.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I propose to move the third reading of the Travancore Ancient Monuments Preservation Bill. Before I make the motion I wish to move a few amendments which are more or less of a verbal character.

My first amendment is as follows:—

In Clause 7, sub-clause (5)

(a) for the word "be" occurring between "shall" and "prepared" substitute the words "not lie if not",

(b) for the word "the" occurring before the word "Dewan" substitute the word "Our" and

(c) for the word 'prescribed" substitute the word "said"

"The Clause as passed yesterday will read thus:—

"An appeal under sub-section (3), shall be preferred within sixty days of the date of service of the copy of the order under sub-section (4) except where he satisfies the Dewan that he had sufficient cause for not preferring the appeal within the prescribed period".

As amended the Clause will read thus:

"An appeal under sub-section (3), shall not lie if not preferred within sixty days of the dste of service of the copy of the order under sub-section (4) except where he satisfies Our Dewan that he had sufficient cause for not preferring the appeal within the said period".

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